

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Canceled)

2. (Previously Amended) An isolated coryneform bacterium wherein an argR gene on a chromosome of the bacterium is disrupted, and the argR gene has the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17 or is obtained from chromosomal DNA of the bacterium by PCR with oligonucleotide primers having a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16 ~~has a nucleotide sequence with a degree of homology that it can homologously recombine with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17.~~

3. (Previously Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein the argR gene encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:18 or an amino acid sequence which is encoded by an argR gene, which is obtained from chromosomal DNA of the bacterium by PCR with oligonucleotide primers having a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16 ~~with a degree of homology that it can homologously recombine with the argR gene coding for the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:18.~~

4. (Previously Canceled)

5. (Previously Canceled)

6. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a species selected from the group consisting of

Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum,

Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum,

Corynebacterium alkanolyticum,

Corynebacterium callunae,

Corynebacterium glutamicum,

Corynebacterium lilium,
Corynebacterium melassecola,
Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes,
Corynebacterium herculis,
Brevibacterium divaricatum,
Brevibacterium flavum,
Brevibacterium immariophilum,
Brevibacterium lactofermentum,
Brevibacterium roseum,
Brevibacterium saccharolyticum
Brevibacterium thiogenitalis,
Brevibacterium album,
Brevibacterium cerinum, and
Microbacterium ammoniaphilum.

7. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a species selected from the group consisting of

Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum,
Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum,
Corynebacterium alkanolyticum,
Corynebacterium callunae,
Corynebacterium glutamicum,
Corynebacterium lilium,
Corynebacterium melassecola,

Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes,

Corynebacterium herculis,

Brevibacterium divaricatum,

Brevibacterium flavum,

Brevibacterium immariophilum,

Brevibacterium lactofermentum,

Brevibacterium roseum,

Brevibacterium saccharolyticum

Brevibacterium thiogenitalis,

Brevibacterium album,

Brevibacterium cerinum, and

Microbacterium ammoniaphilum.

8. (Previously Canceled)

9. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of sulfa drugs, 2-thiazolealanine, and α -amino- β -hydroxyvaleric acid.

10. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of sulfa drugs, 2-thiazolealanine, and α -amino- β -hydroxyvaleric acid.

11. (Previously Canceled)

12. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium exhibits auxotrophy for a compound selected from the group consisting of L-histidine, L-proline, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-methionine, and L-tryptophan.

13. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium exhibits auxotrophy for a compound selected from the group consisting of L-histidine, L-proline, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-methionine, and L-tryptophan.

14. (Previously Canceled)

15. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of ketomalonic acid, fluoromalonic acid, and monofluoroacetic acid.

16. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of ketomalonic acid, fluoromalonic acid, and monofluoroacetic acid.

17. (Previously Canceled)

D' 18. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of arginol and X-guanidine, wherein X is derived from a fatty acid or aliphatic chain.

19. (Previously Added) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of arginol and X-guanidine, wherein X is derived from a fatty acid or aliphatic chain.

20. (Previously Added) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 2 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.

21. (Previously Added) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 3 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.

22. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a genus selected from the group consisting of the genus *Corynebacterium*, the genus *Brevibacterium*, and the genus *Microbacterium*.

23. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a genus selected from the group consisting of the genus *Corynebacterium*, the genus *Brevibacterium*, and the genus *Microbacterium*.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 2-3 have been amended.

Claims 22-23 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 2-3 is supported by the claims and the specification as originally filed, specifically the Examples of the present application. New Claims 22-23 are supported by page 6, line 16 to page 7, line 17.

No new matter is believed to have been entered by the present amendment.